UPDATE

New Initiatives to Help Americans Quit Smoking

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced a series of initiatives designed to help Americans quit smoking. The initiatives include the opening of a national quitline number (1-800-QUITNOW) that puts users in touch with programs that can help them give up tobacco. In addition, a new HHS Web site (www.smokefree.gov) offers online advice and downloadable information to make cessation easier.

The Secretary also announced plans to make all HHS campuses tobacco-free, and to make all HHS employees who use tobacco eligible for participation in cessation programs. He made the announcements after a meeting with members of the CEO Roundtable on Cancer and the tobacco control community.

"What starts as a single puff can become a death sentence for millions of Americans," said Secretary Thompson. "Americans want to quit smoking, and they should quit smoking. These initiatives will help Americans kick the habit and save their own lives."

The toll-free number (1-800-784-8669) is a single access point to the National Network of Tobacco Cessation Quitlines. Callers are automatically routed to a state-run quitline, if one exists in their area. If there is no state-run quitline, the call goes to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) quitline. As part of the network, HHS' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided funding to 49 states and the District of Columbia to either enhance their existing quitline or to create one. Quitlines offer advice, support and referrals to local cessation services.

Scientific evidence shows quit-lines are effective tools that help smokers quit. Cigarette smoking is the nation's leading preventable cause of death and disease, causing about 440,000 premature deaths each year.

Prevention Partners recommends visiting the following websites to assist individuals with their goals to stop smoking.

- 1. **Treatobacco.net**http://www.treatobacco.net/home/home.cfm
- 2. Cancer Control PLANET http://cancercontrolplanet.cancer.gov/
- 3. You Can Quit Smoking! http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco/smconsumr.pdf
- 4. Women and Smoking: A Report of the Surgeon General http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/womenandtobacco/
- 5. **SC DHEC Tobacco Control Program** http://www.scdhec.gov/hs/comhlth/risk/tobacco_control.htm



